

THE KALIFORNSKI

Since 1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC

P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, CA 95077

(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS, & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

EDITOR: Patricia L. (Gospodnetich) Solano - (408) 724-1731 or 724-4725

ASSOCIATE: MICHAEL SOLANO

NO.73 AUGUST 1985

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editors message

Well, our Sixth Annual YACO Picnic has been celebrated and now becomes another pleasant memory to tuck away for remembrance of another day.

Needless to say, the food was terrific! RON HILL and JERRY GOSPODNETICH were outstanding Host Barbecuers this year and had a Marvelous Crew assisting in preparing delicious salads and beans and all else necessary to tantalize so many hungry palates. There were many familiar faces assisting with the feast as well as some new faces.

It is great to see that so many people care to become involved in the preparations of such an event. When many members get together to work at realizing these successful events, the burden becomes even lighter and the success can be felt and appreciated by many people instead of one little nucleus of workers.

Getting together to prepare for such an event is of course a lot of work but remember too, being with friends and working at something that we all care about, can be fun and rewarding as well. Don't wait to be asked to assist in YACO's business, volunteer and make your membership count for something.

It was great seeing so many familiar faces again. Many of our friends from out of town and then again, many of our friends in Watsonville, we don't see but once a year at our YACO Picnic. I remember hearing while I was growing up that "Slavonians" always met at Funerals and Weddings and it always seemed that there were more funerals than weddings. Too bad but with YACO here for you, we can change that. We have found a better reason for getting together. We can appreciate visiting with our old friends as well as meeting new friends. We can

(Continued on page 2)

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JOYCE KUSANOVICH 724-8259

MEETING

WHEN: AUGUST 4, 1985
Sunday - 7:30p.m. - 9p.m.

WHERE: VFW HALL
1960 Freedom Blvd.
Watsonville CA 95076

WHO: All YACO members and friends

PROGRAM: Refreshments and entertainment
after a short business meeting.

MEMORIES

If you have any special family remembrances that you would like to share with other YACO members, drop me a line (See application page). It could be a short story or family tradition or just a special memory of a parent or grandparent or other family member or friend.

be introduced by proud grandparents to their grandchildren and then we can watch and enjoy as these new YACO members grow with us to become future leaders of our fine organization. It's great reliving with our old friends some of life's precious moments long past.

YACO's prime goal has always been to bring families together to enjoy good times with good friends and to go on for a very long time. I think we have succeeded in doing this to some extent but we must always keep it in mind. We must never lose sight of our original goal. YACO is here for you the membership and you must be there for YACO. Together we can make it a long lasting friendship worth remembering.

To all of you who helped to make this Sixth Annual Picnic the success that it was, PUNO HVALA - THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Let's get together again very soon and make it a point to keep in touch.

Thanks

MUCH THANKS to JOYCE KUSANOVICH for handling the Desserts for the July Picnic. She took over as Chairman when I had to be out of town and I understand the Desserts were a Big Hit! I would like to thank all of you who brought desserts also. You are always wonderful. What a wonderful job!

SLAVICA KUSANOVICH ZALAC



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Thanks

MANY THANKS to my "Second in Command" JERRY GOSPODNETICH. Also to ANTONE BASICH for doing a "Yoaman Job", to WALTER ZUROWSKI, a most willing helper, to Superworkers CHUCK HEEBNER, JIM RESETAR, ALEX SOLANO, JACK OSORIO & ZARKO RADICH. This was ZARKO's first time to assist in cooking and he wouldn't take relief. What a guy! MANY THANKS to MARY BASICH for a superjob as usual on the beans and to the "Salad Girls" LENA DERPICH & GERI HEEBNER who, with their helpers, put many hours into the two salads. To all of you PUNO HVALA.

RON HILL, Food Chairman

WELCOME

Thought you might enjoy hearing about two new memberships that came to my attention recently. NICK MILOSLAVICH, New World Chimney Sweep, treated his grandmother to a gift membership and listed among her hobbies: gossip, soap operas and trying to get her grandchildren married off. What a wonderful grandmother! Welcome to MARIE CAPOR from Alameda.

Also submitting a new membership is ANITA BAKICH NOVO who lists as her hobbies: walking, gardening, soap operas and people. Welcome TETA! (She's my aunt and she says she will enjoy reading The Kalifornski and seeing old friends).

PATRICIA L. SOLANO

MYSTERY BOY?

Who was the young "Mystery Accordionist" at the YACO Picnic? His first name was BRYAN but who can supply the rest of the information.

He was terrific and wouldn't it be great if BRYAN could some day be one of YACO's delightful entertainers. If you know who he is, please drop me a line. I would be most happy to thank him properly and let our members meet him.

PATRICIA L. SOLANO, Editor

NICK'S STORY

BY PATRICIA L. SOLANO

PART III (NICK at the Royal)

One night NICK was taking care of the waiters and Peter was behind the counter near the front of the restaurant making salads. There were no customers in the house that night about 6:30 p.m. and all was too quiet. Now, in the back was a storeroom where NICK and Peter would put forgotten coats and hats left by absent-minded customers. This particular evening NICK had the bright idea of bringing several of the coats and hats out to the front and placing them in various booths to make it look busy from the outside. Soon enough a couple came in and commented that it looked quite busy when NICK said he would find them an empty booth. As they passed one of the "busy" booths, NICK explained that someone must have forgotten their hat and coat.

One Good Friday, NICK relates, business seemed to be very good and he couldn't understand why. It had always been the case where Good Friday meant very little business. "Well. This was the beginning of very good business and from then it was up.", said NICK. He didn't understand why, he simply accepted the turn for the better and was grateful.

In 1936, business wasn't very good but then came Camp McQuade, Camp Port and the blimp port. At this time, business started to get very good and NICK and Peter had to have 3 bartenders. NICK was lucky to have a lot of whiskey. NICK bought liquor from several salesmen so he always had a good supply. One day a fella came in and told NICK that he had always sold NICK a lot of liquor but now if he never bought again, he should buy now and buy a lot. NICK asked him, "What's the matter Walter?" Walter answered, "There won't be anymore for awhile." So NICK ordered a hundred cases; 50 cases of this and 50 cases of that. BLONDIE LUCICH and CLEM IVELICH, who worked there then, both thought that NICK had gone a little mad. They couldn't understand why he was doing what he was. The next week Walter came in to talk to NICK and NICK wanted to order 25 cases of Grandad and Taylors. Walter said there was none to be had. By then BLONDIE and CLEM started thinking the boss was smarter than all of them put together. The only thing selling was Tequila and Vodka and these weren't popular drinks at the time. Since NICK gave every salesman a chance to sell, he had a varied and ample supply of liquor.

When NICK sold the Royal Grill and Bar to Paul Arnerich, the liquor inventory was worth \$31,000.00. At that time, that was a lot of liquor. A case was about \$24.00. The Royal was sold on the last day of 1946. On the 14th of July, 1947, NICK opened up the Miramar Grill on Main Street where it still stands and operates today. NICK was active in the Miramar until about two years ago along with his KATIE. They were familiar faces to the many people who came into the Miramar, many of whom were second and third generation friends. NICK and KATIE helped to create a comfortable and homey atmosphere to all their customers. NICK kept the books up to the time that he retired until it became too much for his eyes. He still owns and operates along with his daughter, Geri Heebner, 13 apartments above the restaurant and bar. NICK owned the apartments since 1946 when he bought them from Mr. Bachan. His daughter Geri takes care of much of the rental business now. She is married to Chuck Heebner and they have a lovely daughter, Lori who attends Watsonville High School. Needless to say, NICK and KATIE are not only proud parents, but very proud grandparents as well.



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YACO Member

(NICK'S STORY cont'd)

Twenty years ago, NICK and Katie built their home on the same spot that Katie's family home had been located. The family home had been quite old and needed much repair to keep it safe so they decided to build their new home on that same location. The old family home had been a part of the H. A. Hyde nursery property at one time. In front of the old house had been a 30 foot fishpond with a walkover bridge. NICK and Katie felt that it was unsafe and so decided to build over it. Katie's mother Marija, lived with them in comfort and love until her death.

NICK said that he still takes great pride in having run two restaurants for 52 years; the Royal for 17 years and the Miramar for 35 years. He wanted to treat the customers like family and felt he had succeeded in doing so. "To build do many friends so that whenever I walk down the street, I would hear, 'Hey NICK.' or 'Hi NICK.', and many times I turn around and didn't even know the people that called out to me. That was one of my biggest pleasures because I used to walk from my house every morning to the Miramar and people would ask me if I wanted a ride and I would say, 'No. I want to walk. Thank you very much.' When I brought my brother from South America to visit,

we would walk down the street and he was so surprised to hear everyone greet me and he said, 'You know everybody here.' That was one of the wonderful things about having a restaurant. You got to know the public. I always said when I hired a cook, 'Please. Don't serve anything that you wouldn't eat yourself. I don't care how much it costs. If you spoil it, throw it away but don't serve it.' When I hired waiters and waitresses, I would tell them, 'Please people as much as you can because that is your future. When you please people, they will return with their families and then their families will come and that is your business.'" The Miramar has been a family affair from the start and still continues to be the same.

NICK showed me a picture of the Pope with FRANNIE COLENDICH'S uncle who is a Monsignor. He was very proud of this picture and of FRANNIE as well. The uncle is a Monsignor in Spain.

NICK and Katie expressed their pride in the beginning of YACO. They were early members and supporters and said that they were happy to see the Slavic culture being carried on by the younger generation. It was a very proud day when YACO held their very first potluck at the mobile home park on Holm Road and NICK acted as Master of Ceremonies. I was very proud to have been the Founding President and have NICK and Katie share that very special beginning with us.

Finally, I asked NICK who taught him to cook and surprise, Katie spoke up and laughed saying that NICK didn't know and still doesn't know how to cook. She

Pajaro

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(Nick's Story Cont'd)

(NICK'S STORY cont'd)

explained that she does all the cooking at home. NICK knew how to run a good restaurant and knew good food but he stayed out of the kitchen when it came to cooking. "It was always too hot in the kitchen," piped in NICK.

This May 3rd, we wished NICK and KATIE a very Happy 57 years of wedded bliss and in November, HAPPY - HAPPY 85th Birthday NICK DERPICH and Many Thanks for 52 very good years of fine food and friendship.

THANK YOU

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I wish to thank all those who worked their butts off at this years July Picnic. I have noticed it's been the same people year after year and if there's anyone who deserves a huge thank you, it's them!

DONA CASTELAN, Drink Co-Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

With all of the business and excitement of our July Picnic, not all of the bills are in yet so a complete report is not possible. I will give you a full Treasurer's Report for the September Issue.

MICHAEL CASTELAN, Treasurer



People and Times

From our local Register Pajaronian of Friday, July 12, 1985, comes the following:

That was Watsonville

75 years ago (1910)

George Hrepich left today for Paso Robles Hot Springs to recuperate from his very serious illness.

Also in the Register Pajaronian of Monday, June 17, 1985 comes this news:

Famine-relief rock concert in Belgrade

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (UPI) — More than 20,000 Yugoslav pop fans attended a dusk-to-daybreak concert by the country's leading rock stars to aid famine relief in Africa Saturday night.

The fans gathered in Belgrade's Red Star stadium, the biggest soccer stadium in the country, for the start of the concert scheduled for 8.p.m.

Torrential rain delayed the performance for two hours but the bands struck up around 10 p.m. and kept on playing until daybreak Sunday at around 4 a.m.

No Paper?

If someone you know is not receiving the KALIF-ORNSKI, please let me know. I publish this for you the membership and I would like each of you to have the opportunity of keeping in touch with YACO. CALL ME AT 724-1731 after 6pm.

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DOWN ON THE SALAS[✓]

By VESNA DJUKIC

LIKE A DREAM

On the road from Senta to Bačka Topola we turn left towards Srpska Škola, a well-known area of salaš farmers in the Senta district. Walking along a country lane we approach clumps of trees rising out of the plain like turtles out of the ocean.

It is all like a dream. So is the tale told by the old farmer, but the sort of dream from which you awaken cheerful and unusually at peace. The dream begins when you lift the latch of the gate in the wooden picket fence.

"It's a good and healthy life on the land. You used to have to get up at daybreak, at three in the morning and work a horse-drawn plough till dusk, but then I only had four acres of land, and today I've got three times as much."

"You used to work hard in the old days, but then I still do. I feed everything on the farm from the sparrows to the ox. Even when I go into town I get my business done and come back quickly. My life's here, you see - if you don't feed and water the livestock and poultry, everything goes down the drain. The salaš is everything to me," says old Milorad who lives on a farm in Srpska Škola. "Once I had a nice shiny wagon, nobody had a better one, and American mares ..." Today he just looks at a photograph of two black horses and shows them with a smile.

"But nothing can compare with the present day. We have a future before us, electricity, water, and everything else. Our land is right next to the farmhouse; we don't have far to go to the fields," adds Milorad and his eyes come to rest on the wooden fence, barns full of maize, clover stacked under the eaves, rosy apples, pears, plums the size of eggs, all bursting with juice, piglets lying in the hay, rakes, milk pails, pitchforks, currycombs, spindles, pots and pans, sieves, maize huskers . . . Even the farm dogs manage to be fierce and gentle at the same time, like "Vojvodina lavish and simple . . . Vojvodina of the farmer's spade... of fairs... of wine and violins," in the words of poet Miroslav Antić, written in praise of his native region.

The salaši reflect their owners, a good farmer running a good farm. At the other end of the plain, once the bed of the ancient Pannonian Sea, towards the Romanian border on the edge of the Deliblatsko Heath, the farms are different from Milorad's.

The cold east wind, the kosava, was blowing
(Continued next page)

POETRY

FOR THOSE WHO STUMBLE
OVER THE THRESHOLD

I seek mercy
for the simple and guileless,
for their endless wondering,
for the people who never mature,
for the utopians,
for those who were led thirsty across water,
for those who were led clean across mud,
for the perpetual daydreamers,
for the quiet, for the cheerless,
for those quite unlike myself
and for those quite the same as me.

For the clumsy and the unlearned,
for those who stumble over the threshold,
who drop the glass from their hands,
for those who always stand aside,
who are delighted by any trifle,
and whomeverybody meets gladly,
for those who walk absorbed in thought,
as if carrying a droplet in their palms,
for those quite unlike myself,
and for those quite the same as me.

Translator Dragana and Stanislav Popovic

(DESANKA MAKSIMOVIC, Serbia's greatest living poet and one of the most popular in Yugoslavia, is the 8th winner of the Njegos prize awarded every three years by the Montenegrin Republican Assembly for the most outstanding achievement in literature in the previous period... Desanka Maksimovic was born in 1898 in the village of Rabrovica in the republic of Serbia. She published her first poems in 1919.

I will include her story in Review 1/2/85 in one of our next issues This is a Memorable Lady.)

GIFT

Consider sending someone, maybe a friend or relative, a gift membership to YACO. Let us know that it is a gift membership and we'll send a card letting them know just how thoughtful you were and we'll start sending them a copy of THE KALIFORNSKI each month. Drop a line to THE KALIFORNSKI, GIFT, P. O. Box 226, WATSONVILLE CA 95077.

(DOWN ON THE SALAS continued)

50 kilometres an hour when we visited one of them. The buildings look like matchboxes strewn over the untamed endless prairie with its rippling grass, forever trying to find new ways of surprising those who strive to control it. It is a challenge to the people living on this salas, which rests on what was once the bed of the river Karas, no more than two kilometres from the Danube and the Serbian side, facing the medieval citadel of Ram. Like a magician waving his wand and producing a shower of stars, the farmer here broadcasts his seed, which in due deason bring colour to the maizefields and expanses of clover, interspersed by lakes and game reserves. Overhead fly moorhen and wild duck, while below them herds of fallow deer and wild boar roam. The waters teem with carp, perch and catfish; cattle and sheep graze the pastures. Sometimes a fox or a Carpathian deer, majestic and dignified, strays as far as the farm. Amidst this pastoral scene, the young farmer resembles the god Pan with his pipes.

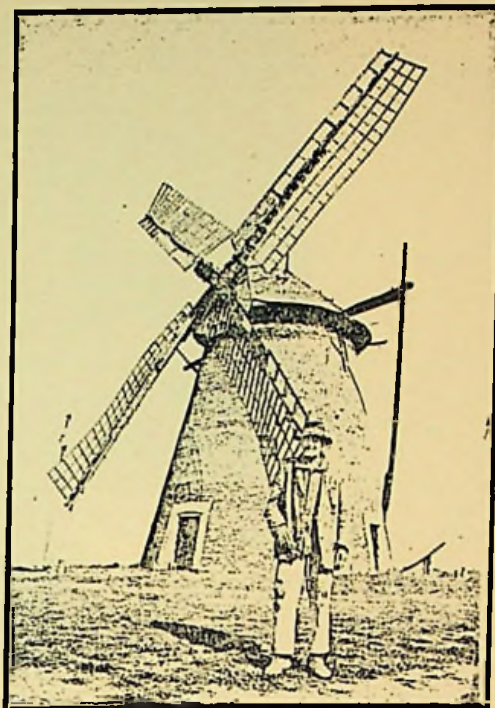
"We've been here two winters. Father bought the farm and the very day he retired we left our house and city habits in the town and came to live here. What we found was a ruin of a house 80 years old, which had once been painted white. The owner was old and weak, as lonely as the house, and was being forced to leave it as he could find no one to live and work with him. We are here to stay. We intend to raise cattle, cultivate the land and go hunting for deer, wild boar, foxes and rabbits . . . there's everything here, fish too . . . and the chorus of frogs from the ponds serenades us in the evening. We've built a windmill, too. Vojvodina used to have a lot of windmills, but today there's only one of them left, and that no longer works. The winds are our friends in this wilderness. Our new windmill works.

(REVIEW 209/84)

Get Well

GET WELL WISHES go to EVELYN GOSPODNETICH (Mrs. Bill Gospodnetich). Hope to see you real soon back to our YACO programs.

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One old method of producing energy is coming back into fashion: a windmill in the village of Melenci.
PHOTO: D. MANOLEV

Yugoslav Radio Hour

REMEMBER to listen to the YUGOSLAV RADIO HOUR every Sunday at 9:35 a.m. on radio station KOMY, 1340 on your radio dial.

ANDY & ANN SOLD0 are your hosts and bring you the finest in old favorites as well as the very latest music from Yugoslavia. They will be happy to play any special requests you might ask for whether it be for birthday, anniversary or for any special announcement.

CONGRATS

CONGRATULATIONS to JOHN & FRANNIE COLENDICH on the birth of their son NIKOLA!
CONGRATULATIONS to KATIE MARIE on the birth of her new little brother also! It seems like just yesterday we watched KATIE grow from a little baby to the lovely young lady she is today.

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HARMONIJA



HARMONIJA CAPERS

By NAIDA NICHOLAS

GONE FISHING!!!
('til September)

FOOD

In place of a recipe this month, I would like to print something sent to me by FRANNY COLENDICH and NINA MATULICH. I think it is very interesting and am sure you will enjoy it also. (GOURMET/JUNE 1985)

It is different, Outside GELCO's a rustic wooden wheel revolves slowly and spouts water, raggedy palm trees snap and flutter like sheets whipped by the wind, and the legend on the building, the front of a motel, reads "The Buich Brothers from Dubrovnik." The brothers, VLAHO and LUKO, are a long way from home, but they've brought a little of it with them to GELCO's and its unlikely location - 1450 Lombard Street in the heart of motel row. Whether GELCO's biggest draw is its rack of lamb - the house specialty - or its warm and

(GELCO's continued)

friendly old-world atmosphere, I'm not altogether sure. But it is another world, a foreign one to the chic and trendy, which is one reason it feels so genuine. I like the place a lot.

Established in 1972 by a Yugoslav named GELCO PERAZICH, GELCO's passed into the hands of the BUICHS, late of Dubrovnik, seven years ago. They are cousins of the family that own the venerable TADICH GRILL in the financial district. If the restaurant's exterior suggests Southern grist mill crossed with Waikiki, the inside is colorfully Yugoslavian. Native weavings and handicrafts, paintings of the ancient and very beautiful city, wall-mounted copper pots, and pierced brass bed warmers ("It's pretty cold sometimes in Dubrovnik," Luko explains) invest the small premises with personality and charm. There is a convivial bar that VLAHO usually tends and several cozy, comfortably appointed dining rooms, including a six-booth hideaway upstairs for that one bachelor I know says is the most romantic trysting place in town. (Romancing and private parties are best scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays, though, as the room is usually closed during the week.) In the main dining room hangs a portrait of a handsome woman with strong features whom I mistook for the Buich's mother. She is in fact Rose Ann Vuich, a state senator and a valued customer.

The BUICHS inherited a name and a tradition that they saw no reason to change. The original GELCO's, which had a chef who once worked at La Bourgogne, as had GELCO himself, built its reputation on lamb and several Balkan specialties reflecting Yugoslavia's proximity to Greece. The present kitchen doesn't have the same finesse, but it still features a table d'hote dinner with lamb as the centerpiece that, at \$20 or less, is a remarkable value. It is hardly necessary to observe that the price is what lamb alone goes for in most restaurants nowadays. More to the point,

(Continued next page)



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FUND FOR YOUNG TALENTS

By Jurica Kerbler

(REVIEW 209/84)

The Viennese audience, as for that matter audiences all over the world wherever the talented young pianist Ivo Pogorelić has performed, will long remember the magnificent concert at which Pogorelić played Tchaikovsky, with the famous Karajan conducting. Karajan and Pogorelić have also combined on record and, though priced at around 300 schillings in the Austrian capital, recent issues have sold like hot cakes. However, Ivo Pogorelić never lets himself forget how hard it was, while he was training, to prove his talent.

For this very reason, Pogorelić proposed that a Fund should be set up to grant scholarships to young talents. This was duly done in Zagreb and Pogorelić plans to establish a similar fund in Scotland, the idea being that the two funds will exchange students.

— Up to now the Concert Board in Zagreb, founder of the Fund, with Ivo Pogorelić as chairman of the Management Board, has received about 70 applications from candidates trying for a scholarship. These include Radovan Kavalin, 14 years old and studying the clarinet. At present a second-year student at the Zagreb Academy of Music, he is also the youngest applicant. There are also two young pianists from Belgrade, Madžar and Serdar, 15 and 16 years of age — we are told by Blanka Šavorić, the Fund's secretary.

The first major contribution to the Fund was made by Ivo Pogorelić himself who played three concerts free of charge. His example was soon followed by others, and not long afterwards large work organisations joined in. Later contributors included the Artists' Copyright

Agency of Croatia which promised regular sums over the next five years. It was followed by the Republic Self-Managing Community of Interest for Welfare and Education, the Cankar Centre in Ljubljana, the Youth Music Organisation and the Lisinski Concert Hall in Zagreb.

Major work organisations giving support number *Strahinčice* of Krapina and *Tekstilpromet* among others.

Membership is naturally voluntary, with no strings attached. Contributions have no upper or lower limit; it really is just a matter of good will. One accordionist applied for a scholarship, a lad from Čačak (Republic of Serbia). Since Yugo-

slavia has no higher musical institution for teaching the accordion, this gifted player asked to be helped to study in Moscow.

— It could happen that some years no scholarship will be awarded, for our regulations are very strict about how the money is to be given and to whom. The only criterion is genuine talent, but we do expect our fair share of that — admitted Blanka Šavorić.

Among the candidates are some who have already shown their worth, like pianist Kemal Getić who won fifth place at a competition in Portugal.

When Ivo Pogorelić, now world-famous, was asked why he started this entire scheme, he answered that he knew only too well how difficult it was to study outside one's own country.

— Pogorelić doesn't want young people training abroad to be forced to do all sorts of jobs in order to survive. The aim of the scholarship is to provide sufficient financial support so that each candidate may study in peace — they told us at Fund headquarters.

When Ivo Pogorelić was chosen to head the Fund's Management Board, few believed that this young artist would have either the time or the energy to take a real interest in the routine work of the Fund. However, Pogorelić has already attended two meetings out of the three held and surprised everyone by his enthusiasm. All over the world he is publicising the Fund. Just recently he announced his hope that the distinguished Yugoslav opera-singer Ruža Pospíš-Baldani would perform on behalf of the Fund, and he intends to organise concerts by leading artists on all five continents.

(GELCO'S continued)

the quality of GELCO's lamb is high.

Dinner begins with a waiter (who may be LUKO) placing a large hors d'oeuvre platter and serving spoons in the center of the table for everyone to share. Among my group the mound of purple Kalamata olives disappeared in a trice, followed quickly by the tender calamari (squid) and artichokes marinated in vinaigrette. If the marinated mushroom caps and mustardy celery root remoulade moved more slowly, it was only because portions were overwhelmingly generous. This is followed by a green salad.

Most of the restaurant's lamb is California-grown and from animals four to five months old. The kitchen trims it meticulously of excess fat and marinates it overnight with wine, olive oil, and herbs. The star is the meaty rack of lamb, baked briefly and then charred on the grill, which is full of juices and flavor. It is as good as any rack in town. A word to the waiter: The dark sauce based on lamb stock should be served on the side instead of slathered over the meat, which spoils the meat to my taste. A lamb kebab is the same excellent rack meat skewered and grilled and served over rice. Sautéed lamb medallions with shallots are also good, but a fillet of lamb in pastry is a dish that defeats the best of kitchens, and GELCO's was no exception. The pastry was a wet blanket when I had it. Lamb dishes utilizing ground meat are humbler but not necessarily lesser. I like chufta, a grilled lamb and veal patty laced with Sherry and topped with Feta cheese. My favorite house specialty is musaka, as the Yugoslavs spell it, a heartwarming, well seasoned blend of lamb and veal baked in eggplant skin with a topping of Feta cheeses and a bechamel sauce.

For those who shun lamb, GELCO's provides steaks, sliced veal in sour cream, and fresh fish. I tried a sautéed unfiletted petrale, figuring that a cousin of the TADICH BUICHS would know where to go for fish. The petrale couldn't have been fresher, but it could have been cooked five minutes less. But then,

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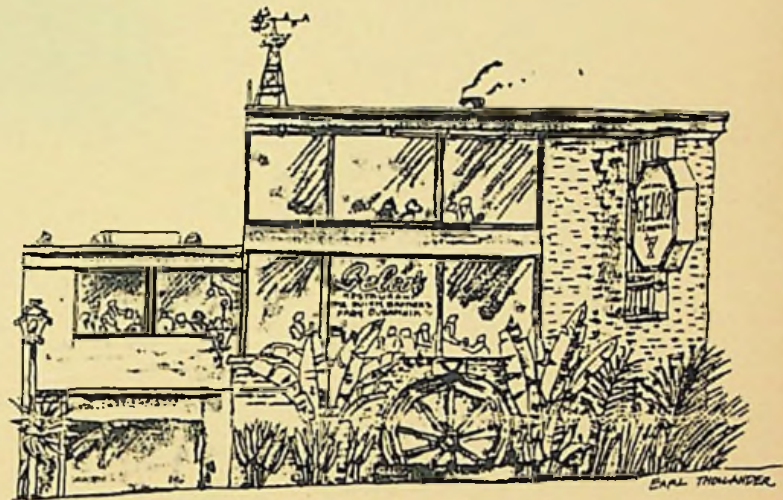
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(GELCO's continued)

only a restaurant reviewer would order a petrale in a place called "the original house of baby lamb."

For the closing sweets there is a wonderful flaky nut-filled baklava, made outside, and a mocha mousse cake with coffee sauce. No one should leave GELCO's without a taste of slivovitz, a delicious plum brandy that performs the same function as the brass bed warmer, but faster. There are also good Yugoslavian wines to explore: Postup, a hearty red; a lighter Babich; and a dry white Zilavka.

GELCO'S serves dinner from 5:30 until 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday and closes on Sundays. Complete dinners range from about \$14.50 (with musaka as the entree) to \$20 (featuring rack of lamb). Reservations are advisable, particularly on weekends. Telephone (415) 928-1054 (San Francisco).



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Potpourri

By BABE BRAUTOVICH HILL

WOW! What a Great Picnic! PAT SOLANO and I were on the bread slicing detail. Crummy job! ... First News First: M/M JOHN COLENDICH have a new baby boy (6/10/85), "NIKOLA" - 10lbs. 2oz. - 22-1/2" long. I haven't seen him yet but I understand he is a beauty - Congratulations! ... Would hate to go into an airport and see your old friend Jack? HI JACK!? .. No way. Turn your face, right? ... Personal thanks to NITA GIZDICH (you know, from "Apple Pie Fame")... REMEMBER WHEN? There used to be a big "Shell Station" where J. C. Penneys is now? ... SKUTTLEBUTT: Woud you believe that I called Yugo 126 times and never got through? Finally, ZARKO RADICH worked a miracle for me. Puno Hvala ZARKO! Congratulations to JENNY LAMAT. Happy Birthday to PAULINE BATICH (July 7)! Famous Psychic Countess Sophia Sabak, predicted that, "The hottest selling car in the U.S.A., will be a tiny hatchback from Yugo, costing less than Japan imports... Little BRYAN RADICH (ZARKO & NEVENKA's youngest) had a sad ending to Sunday, YACO Picnic Day, He fell when he got home and fractured his wrist! GET WELL QUICK! ...JULY BAR-B-QUE:First, the food was delicious! Great Potato salad! The wine coolers were very tasty, thanks to DONA & MIKE CASTELLAN. The bread was almost too hot to handle, but good! Music by "Vlastelicas" (father & son team) brought out some dancers and of course, the ever popular MARTIN SANTICH was a hit as usual... At my table were some of the nicest people, GERI & STEVE BELICK & their friends from the Corralitos area, DOLLY & JACK ANDERSON or Andrewson?(Just kidding Jack), MARY FARRIS & her son, HAROLD, CINDY NORMAN, (my niece). Visitors to the table were: ANN BOPP, MILAN POPOVICH, BILL & PAT MAJERLE. BILL "MUSIC MAN" MAJERLE has records, tapes & cassettes in Yugo. Just call him at (408) 264-8524, San Jose.,

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EVA BULICH, JOHN IVELICH, KATE BJELO-KOSICH, NISHKA "NIKKI" YUDNICH who is starting a club in Stockton. Best wishes to you NIKKI (Grupe Realtors) & your organization. ... RAFFLE WINNERS were: AGNES LEONARDICH, BETTY JONES, FRAN OSORIO, CATHERINE LETTUNICH & MARK BULAICH. But then all of us were winners if we attended the Bar-b-que. Right? ... So very glad to see JOAN & GEORGE JURIKOVICH, DUSAN PAUNOVICH & his lovely wife, ADAM ETEROVICH & his DANICA, KATHY PERVETICH, the ZIVANO-VICHES, SALINOVICHES, CHARLES PALMTAG from San Jose, GERI SIMMONS & son ADAM, SUSAN & CHRIS VALDIVIA and son JUSTIN, NEVENKA RADICH & sons, SASHA, RADOVAN & BRYAN, M/M KORACH, NAIDA NICHOLAS, VICE MATULICH, M/M PONZA, TASOS PETROUTSAS, LUCE BASOR and M/M NANUT.... I must close for now, the deadline is the 10th. Remember? This will be close. See you next month. TOODLE-OO

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(KROPA continued)

Today people go to Kropa to see the picturesque village which has been placed under the protection of the law as a cultural and historical monument. There is a blacksmith museum, the ruins of old foundries, a Slovenian furnace from the 14th century, a forge with an open hearth, and other relics of the past. One old forge is in operation and the smith, with sparks flying, is busy shaping nails which he gives to each visitor as a souvenir.

(Yugoslav Review 1978)

***** YACO SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS *****
YACO SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

KROPA - A VILLAGE OF IRON CRAFTSMEN

By IRENE STRAZICICH

Kropa is situated in a valley of the Kroparica River not too far from the Slovenian town of Lake Bled. When you enter this village, you feel as if you are in a fairyland, something from your childhood dreams. Everything is decorated with strange shapes and figures. There are dragons, crabs, roosters. Each is an object of artistic value. Inside the houses wrought iron is used everywhere - for staircases, lamps, beds, picture frames, chests, cupboards, locks and hinges. This work in iron has been going on in Kropa for many generations.

It started here in the Middle Ages when iron ore from the nearby mines was smelted. The waterfalls nearby provided power to operate the furnaces to produce nails and screws. This was the chief occupation of the people. At their most productive time Kropa had 7 foundries, 18 forges with 300 smiths. With prosperity from the nail production, the people turned to making artistic works for their homes and to sell. As each generation became more skilled, their fame spread over Europe.

Then hard times came as their iron deposits gave out and they could not compete with large scale industries which grew up elsewhere. Prosperity declined in the 19th century. Then in 1895 they began to modernize the machine production so once again iron masters began making iron objects such as lamps, candlesticks, ash trays, flower containers, etc.

On June 12, 1985 at 7:30 p.m. Scholarship Awards were presented on behalf of YACO to the following two students:

HILARY CLARK, daughter of M/M REX CLARK

NIKOLA DERPICH, son of M/M PETER DERPICH

These awards were presented by Mrs. EVA (ANTONE) BULICH at the Watsonville Union High School Wildcatz Gym.

Others receiving awards from other organizations were: RAMONA "MIMI" SCURICH, daughter of M/M LUKE SCURICH and PETER SCURICH, son of M/M NICK SCURICH.

Other graduates of Yugoslav heritage were: GEORGINA MAY BENCICH and ANTOINETTE BRENDA MARINOVICH.

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VESELI SELJACI NEWS

by Nancy Bjeletich

These hot, sizzling days have not brought relief from our busy schedules as we continue to perform throughout the area. In June we appeared the grand opening of John Tausan's new meat market in Santa Clara. The festivities included champagne and a tasting of all different kinds of smoked sausage that were out of this world. We all had a great time and were glad to help out our good friend John Tausan who has always been one of our most avid supporters. We thank him, too, for his generous donation that will help us get a little closer to the Tamburitza Extravaganza in Dearborn, Michigan in September.

We also played in June at an elegant garden party on a lovely estate in Woodside. Our audience was most appreciative and we thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon playing in such beautiful surroundings.

Last month's article mentioned our playing for the CFU picnic at Napredak. A good time was had by all, singing, dancing, and partaking of lamb and chicken from Milan Popovich's expert supervision of the barbecue. The sing-a-long that ended the day was great fun!

On July 6, the Veseli Seljaci performed at the wedding of Ann Brkljacich and Steve Barraza. Ann is the daughter of our own Mike Brkljacich, bass player, and his wife Pat. The wedding was a super affair, with a reunion with our Chicago friends whom we have met from our Tamburitza Extravaganza travels. They came to support Mike in the first wedding of his children (only four more to go, Mike!) and joined us in singing. Mike's brother Marty, who plays in a tamburitza orchestra in Milwaukee, picked up the bass and played, too, to cover for brother Mike, whose fingers were shaking too much to find the strings! Just kidding, Mike, it was a beautiful wedding and a great time was had by all!

The Y.A.C.O. picnic was everything it promised to be, good food and music, and a chance to visit and enjoy friendships in the shade of those big trees of Corralitos park. John Britz, Kathy Sulaver, Cecilia Benrath and Emily Sesich made up the Veseli Seljaci delegation this year, as illness, travel, and other obligations kept some of the rest of us from going. Reports are that it was a super day enjoyed by all who attended.

July 28, we will perform for the Napredak Stockholder's picnic. This is always well-attended, and a great chance to see everyone.

Watch for the golf tournament weekend activities on August 3 and 4th at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 7811 Orion Lane, in Cupertino. Golf Saturday, and a lamb barbecue on Sunday, August 4 at the church picnic grounds. The Veseli Seljaci will play, so bring your kolo dancing shoes! Contact Wes Kosich 252-4109 or John Bjeletich 253-2139 if you want to play golf.

In September, keep your calendars marked for the 15th. That will be our annual Veseli Seljaci fall picnic at Napredak Hall!

JOIN US TODAY

We earnestly invite you to join the YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION established in 1979.

We are a non-profit, non-political, and non-religiously oriented organization, and our main purpose for coming together was to simply bring the various members of the Slavic community at large together for their mutual cultural enjoyment.

We are very proud to have among our members, Yugoslav-Americans whose families came from the many different regions and republics of today's Yugoslavia. We also have many members who are non-slavic but enjoy, appreciate and support the slavic culture and its vast richness.

Our goals are as we mentioned before, ONLY to promote a cultural awareness and appreciation of our heritage as well as to bring Slavs and non-slavs together in a social and cultural atmosphere. Our programs include folk dances from all regions of Yugoslavia as well as slides and movie presentations, history lectures, folk singing (we have a singing group called "HARMONIJA" who perform not only for YACO functions, but celebrate marvelous performances for many other groups both locally and out of the city), language instruction, and other various cultural activities.

Won't you consider joining us for a good time as well as a very informative experience? All memberships include the receipt of this paper, THE KALIFORNSKI each month to keep you informed of YACO's activities and other informative news.

The nicest people belong to YACO and you'll be among them once you join.

Our dues are as follows:

Single membership\$12.00

Family membership.....\$18.00

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Birth date: _____
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Yugoslav Background _____

Children under 18 included in Family Membership.

ATTENTION:

THE KALIFORNSKI is your publication. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see in any future issues, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have any subjects relating to Yugoslav heritage or about Yugoslavs, here or abroad, that you would like to see published in our newsletter, please let me know. I would appreciate your cooperation in publishing this newsletter each month. Any questions or suggestions, contact me:

PATRICIA L. SOLANO, Editor
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SUGGESTED TOPICS:

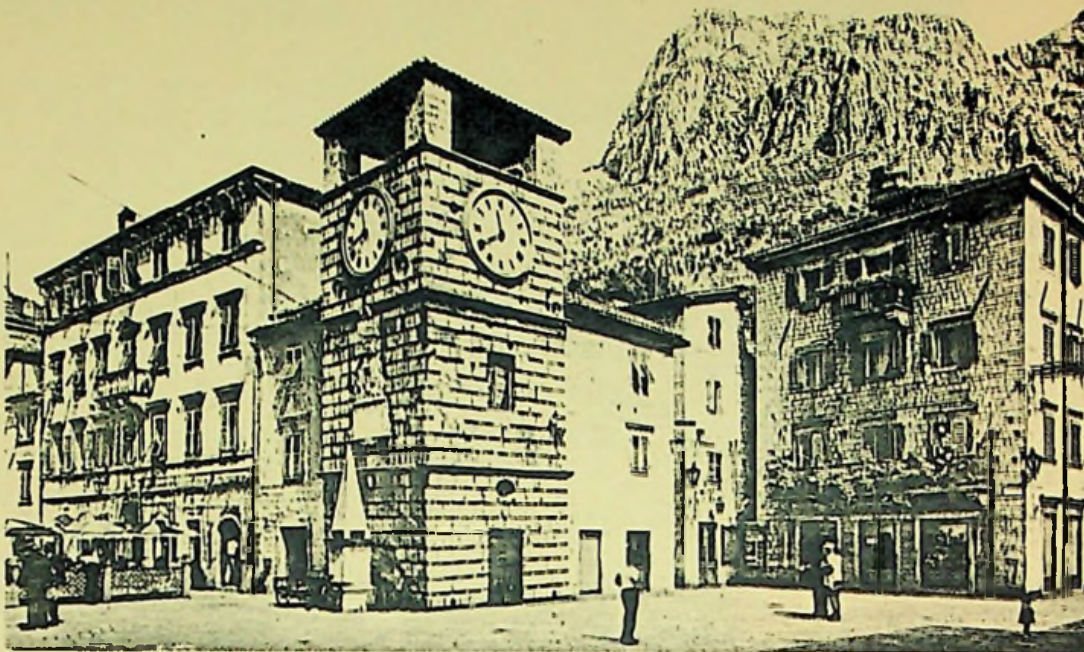
1. Trips by YACO members.
2. Visitors from the Old Country.
3. Newspaper or magazine articles about Yugoslavia or Yugoslavs, local or abroad.
4. Weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birth announcements, or special celebrations by YACO members.
5. Civic or cultural contributions by Yugoslavs.
6. Yugoslav recipes.
7. Yugoslav songs, poetry or stories.
8. Special family traditions for holidays, etc.
9. Yugoslav stories for children.
10. Anything you think might be of interest to YACO members.

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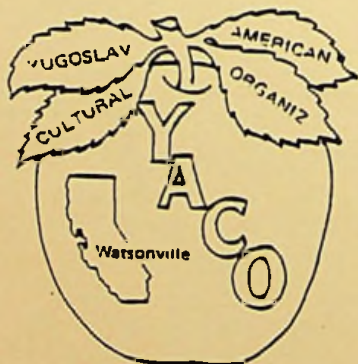
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